

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 42

Introduced by Assembly Member Reyes

June 19, 2003

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 42—Relative to the Federal Communications Commission.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 42, as introduced, Reyes. Federal Communications Commission

This measure would request the United States Congress to take immediate action to overturn the Federal Communications Commission's actions on June 2, 2003, relating to the adoption of certain media ownership rules, and to ensure that media ownership rules promote a diversity of opinion and programming in the media.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On June 2, 2003, the Federal Communications
2 Commission adopted new rules allowing greater concentration of
3 media ownership; and

4 WHEREAS, The new rules will permit one company to own up
5 to three television stations in some markets and own enough
6 stations across the nation to reach 45 percent of the national
7 audience, and will allow one company to own both television and
8 radio stations, as well as newspapers, in a single market; and

9 WHEREAS, The California State Legislature believes that the
10 public's access to a multiplicity of information sources is a
11 governmental purpose of the highest order; and

1 WHEREAS, It has long been a basic tenet of national
2 communications policy that the widest possible dissemination of
3 information sources from diverse and even antagonistic sources is
4 essential to the health and welfare of our democracy; and

5 WHEREAS, The relaxation or elimination of numerous federal
6 media concentration regulations in recent years has let to an
7 unprecedented wave of consolidation in media ownership; and

8 WHEREAS, The impact of the unprecedented consolidation of
9 power in the hands of a few vertically integrated national media
10 chains have adversely impacted the once vital economic
11 community of independent producers in our state; and

12 WHEREAS, It appears that the predatory practices of merged
13 media has choked competition and stifled innovation to the
14 detriment of the general public; now, therefore be it

15 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*
16 *jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully requests the United States
17 Congress to take immediate action to overturn the Federal
18 Communications Commission's actions on June 2, 2003 and
19 ensure that media ownership rules promote a diversity of opinion
20 and programming in the media; and be it further

21 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
22 of this resolution to the Members of the House of Representatives
23 and the United States Senate.

